

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 16, 2007. Claims 1, 3 to 19, 21 to 23, 26, 28 and 30 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 12, 25, 27 to 30, 32 to 34 and 41 to 43 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 19, 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,154,733 (Pierce) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,877,093 (Desai). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of determining a configuration profile for an electronic document processing peripheral, the configuration profile representing a set of configuration parameters defining an operating mode of the peripheral, a set of fixed values of the parameters defining a particular configuration of the peripheral, said method implemented in a communication network that includes at least one client station, at least one server station and at least one processing peripheral comprising the steps of obtaining a user identification data item from a request sent by a client station operated by said user, determining user characteristics as a function of the user identification data item, obtaining a peripheral identification data item, determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request coming from said user; and sending the configuration profile determined to the client station operated by said user.

In contrast, Pierce discloses a postage printing system including a computer, a data center and a control system. In Pierce, a user is allowed to create a user data profile file 205 associated with a particular user and stored in the user database 204 10 is shown. Generally, a

user data profile 205 is established for each of the individual user accounts and allows each user to set parameters for controlling third party advertising on their respective envelopes 20. (See Pierce Column 6, lines 54 to 60). Furthermore, Pierce is seen to disclose an ad data profile file 207 associated with a third party message to be printed on the envelope 20 by the postage printing system 10 is shown. The ad data includes: graphic image data 207a; subsidy rate data 207b; billing rate data 207c and restriction data. The restriction data may include sender restriction data, addressee restriction data and non-addressee (quantitative) restriction data, or any combination of types of restriction data. Preferably, the addressee restriction data includes: geographic quantitative data 207d and recipient restriction data 207e. Preferably, the non-addressee restriction data includes: date restriction data 207f; multi-ad restriction data 207g; and ad space restriction data 207g. (See Column 8, line 41 to Column 9, line 14).

In the Office Action, it is conceded that Pierce fails to disclose obtaining a peripheral identification data item used to determine a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral, as featured in Claim 1. However, the Office Action contends that Desai discloses such a feature. Applicants respectfully disagree with such a characterization of Desai.

Applicants submit that Desai describes a transaction processing device and a method for updating the configuration information of this device. A subscriber, wishing to update the configuration information of the device, has to log-on to a website using a username and a password. Once the subscriber is identified by a server, the server presents to the subscriber a list of devices, and the subscriber updates the configuration information of the selected devices. Then the server presents to the subscriber the configuration information of the

selected devices, and the subscriber updates the configuration information of the selected devices.

Applicants submit that the process in Desai is not at all analogous to the process of obtaining a peripheral identification data item as featured in the present invention. In Desai a device identification data item is not obtained as it is in the present invention. Instead of obtaining a peripheral identification data item, the server presents to the subscriber a list of devices, and the subscriber updates the configuration information of the selected devices. Applicants submit that such a process is more accurately characterized as a user process of supplying the required configuration information. That is, the server does not obtain a peripheral identification data item but instead is supplied with a completely defined configuration by the subscriber.

Moreover, as Desai discloses that the subscriber performs the operations necessary to configure the devices, Desai teaches away from the feature of determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral for a document processing request. This is because, in Desai, a subscriber selects from a list of previously specified configurations. Once selected, the configuration is completed. Therefore, there is no additional step of determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Pierce with the teachings of Desai in order to supply the missing feature of a peripheral identification item. This is because Desai proposes an exclusive alternative to determining, as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for

configuring the operating mode of the peripheral. Specifically, Desai deems simple selection from a list of preset configurations to be adequate for performing the configuration of devices. This forestalls the additional functionality inherent in allowing a system to determine, as a function of the user characteristics and of the peripheral identification data item, a configuration profile applicable for configuring the operating mode of the peripheral.

In light of these deficiencies in Pierce and Desai, whether taken alone or in combination, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are directed to devices that implement the method of Claim 1 and further include various other features. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 21, 23, 26, 28 and 30 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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